

## MEN OF WEIGHT.

Only Three of This Notable Eleven Were Under 200 Pounds.

On Aug. 10, 1878, General Washington and ten other officers of the Revolutionary army were weighed at West Point, N. Y., and the result is preserved in an item from the English magazine Notes and Queries. Only three of the eleven weighed less than 200 pounds. The heaviest was Colonel Swift, whose 319 pounds made him lead the next, General Knox, at 280, by thirty-nine pounds, but Knox was only twenty-eight years old.

Then follow Colonel Michael Jackson, 252; Colonel Henry Jackson, 238; General Lincoln, then forty-five years old, 224; Lieutenant Colonel Humphreys, 221; Lieutenant Colonel Huntington, 212.

General Washington, forty-six years old, weighed 206 pounds and was followed at quite an interval by Lieutenant Colonel Cobb and General Huntington, who weighed 182 pounds each.

It is amusing to note that the heaviest man's name was Swift and that of the lightest General Gorton, who is credited with 166 pounds, 1/3 less than Swift's record.

The total weight of the eleven, 2,485 pounds gives 226 pounds as the average, but Swift being omitted the other ten averaged only 217 pounds.

They were certainly men of weight and substance and a heavy team—if we may compare them with a modern football eleven—that might well challenge comparison also with our modern military men.

## PAINTED OUT HIS HEAD.

Revenge of Carolus Duran on His Pupil, Sargent.

When John S. Sargent, the famous portrait painter, studied in the atelier of Carolus Duran in Paris his teacher showed his fondness for him by painting in his head in the great ceiling of the Luxembourg palace. Even after he branched out for himself his master often sent for him to come over to his studio and pose, his hands having especially won the admiration of Carolus Duran.

The time came, however, when Sargent could no longer answer the beck and call of his teacher, for he was getting work of his own to do, which would not allow him to leave his studio at a moment's notice. One day, it is related, Carolus Duran sent a hurry call for him, and when he received a note saying that Sargent was compelled to decline his request owing to pressing work he was furious.

A few days later a friend, to whom he had confided his anger at his recalcitrant pupil, asked him: "Well, how is it with Sargent? Have you made up? How is he?"

"Ah, no," said the painter, and he looked sad and his shoulders went up. "How is it with Sargent? C'est fini! Another shrug. "C'est fini! It's all over! I have been to the Luxembourg. I went and got a ladder, and I painted out his head!"

## A Notable Day's Work.

Robert Burns composed his masterpiece, "Tam o' Shanter," in one day in the open air. Burns went out of the house in the morning and, not returning, his wife joined him in the afternoon with her two children. Seeing that he was "crouching to himself," she forebore to interrupt him, but stayed in the fields at a distance, where she could see him. She observed him wildly gesticulating and at times fairly leaping with joy. She said to Allan Cunningham, the poet, after her husband's death: "I wish ye had seen him; he was in such ecstasy that the tears were hailing down his cheeks." He committed the poem to writing by the riverside and went into the house and read it to his wife at the fireside with great triumph—one of the most notable day's work ever done in Scotland!

## A Fool For a Fool's Mission.

The government was contemplating the dispatch of an expedition to Burma, with a view to taking Rangoon, and a question arose as to who would be the fittest general to be sent in command of the expedition. The cabinet sent for the Duke of Wellington and asked his advice. He instantly replied, "Send Lord Cambermere."

"But we have always understood that your grace thought Lord Cambermere a fool."

"So he is a fool, and a — fool, but he can take Rangoon."—"Collections and Recollections," by One Who Has Kept a Diary.

## Reply of a "Beardless Boy."

When Keppel, a commodore at twenty-four, was sent to demand an apology from the dey of Algiers for an insult to the British flag he took so high a tone that the dey exclaimed against the insolence of the British king for charging a "beardless boy" with such a message to him. Replied the beardless boy, "Were my master wont to take length of beard for a test of wisdom he'd have sent your deyship a he goat."—London Standard.

Cause of the Formality. First Bohemian—May I borrow your gray tie?

Second Ditto—Certainly! But why all this formality of asking permission?

First Bohemian—I can't find it.—London Tit-Bits.

## Different Aspects.

"Gerald, dear, papa thinks we ought to postpone our wedding awhile on account of the shortage in the money market."

"Great Scott, Mildred! That's why I want to hurry it up."—Chicago Tribune.

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## CHINAMEN ARE TOUGH.

They Can Live Under Conditions That  
Would Kill a White Man.

Peculiar power to resist disease is a characteristic of the Chinese, according to Professor E. A. Ross. For instance, out of ten children born in western homes three, normally the weakest three, will fail to grow up. Out of ten children born in China about eight are doomed to die in infancy. The difference is due to the hardships that infant life meets with among the Chinese, and with such rigorous selection there results a stock displaying a peculiar hardiness. Living in the super-saturated, man stifled land, profoundly ignorant of the principles of hygiene, the masses have developed an immunity to noxious microbes which excites the wonder and envy of the foreigner.

"They are not affected by a mosquito bite that will raise a large lump on the lately come foreigner," says Professor Ross. "They can use contaminated water from canals without incurring dysentery. There is very little typhoid, and what there is so attenuated it was long doubted to be typhoid. All physicians agree that among the Chinese smallpox is a mild disease. The chief of the army medical staff points out that during the autumn maneuvers the soldiers sleep on damp ground with a little straw under them without any ill effects.

"Coolies, after two hours of burden bearing at a dog trot, will shovel themselves full of hot rice with scarcely any mastication and hurry on for another two hours. A white man would writhe with indigestion. The Chinese seem able to sleep in any position. I have seen them sleeping on piles of bricks or stones or poles, with a block or a brick for a pillow and with the hot sun shining full into the face. They stand a cramped position longer than we can and can keep on longer at monotonous toil unrelieved by change or break."—Chicago News.

## MATHEMATICAL SIGNS.

Process by Which These Familiar  
Characters Were Evolved.

The sign of addition is derived from the initial letter of the word "plus." In making the capital letter it was made more and more carelessly until the top part of the "p" was placed near the center; hence the plus sign was finally reached.

The sign of subtraction was derived from the word "minus." The word was first contracted into mus, with a horizontal line above to indicate the contraction, which was a printer's freak that may be found in almost any book bearing a date earlier than the beginning of the eighteenth century. After the lapse of a long period of time the letters were omitted altogether, leaving only the short line so well known to all.

The multiplication sign was obtained by changing the plus sign into a character resembling the letter x. This was done simply because multiplication is but a shorter form of addition.

Division was formerly indicated by placing the dividend above a horizontal line and the divisor below. In order to save space in printing the dividend was placed to the left and the divisor to the right, with a simple dot in place of each.

The radical sign was derived from the initial letter of the word "radix." The sign of equality is said to have first been used in the year 1557 by a sharp mathematician, who adopted it as a substitute for the words "equal to."

## Enlightening a Poet.

The English poet Mr. Powys told this anecdote, in which he claimed to have been the party of the second part. He said that he was talking to an old country woman on the occasion of the queen's jubilee in 1897. "What do you understand by the word 'jubilee'?" he asked her.

"Well," answered the old dame, "if you've been married fifty years and the man's alive it's a golden wedding. If he's dead it's a jubilee."

## Ancient Cancer Cure.

An ancient oriental cure for cancer was to apply a live toad to the affected part. A well authenticated case of this form of treatment was that of the wife of a merchant of Smyrna. A live toad was strapped tightly over the diseased part, and it was said, the woman was completely cured within a short time. It was a sacrifice upon the part of the toad, however, as it died after it had been on duty twenty-four hours.

## The Best He Could Do.

"Mr. Addem," said a tightwad merchant to his sad faced bookkeeper, "I wish you would try to look a little more cheerful."

"I think," replied the bookkeeper, swallowing a big lump, "that for 30 shillings a week I'm awfully jolly."—London Mail.

## Exciting.

"Anything going on this evening?" "Yes; there's to be a performance at the Athletic gardens. A fellow will undertake to subdue an automobile that has a record of having killed six men. He's to do it in one hour or forfeit \$1,000."—Chicago Tribune.

## With an Incumbence.

"No," said Mr. Cumrox, "I don't in the least disapprove of my daughter's marrying a title."

"But you seem dissatisfied."

"I am. What I object to is the fellow that goes with it."—Washington Star.

Beware of bad beginnings. He who does not take the first wrong step will never take the second.

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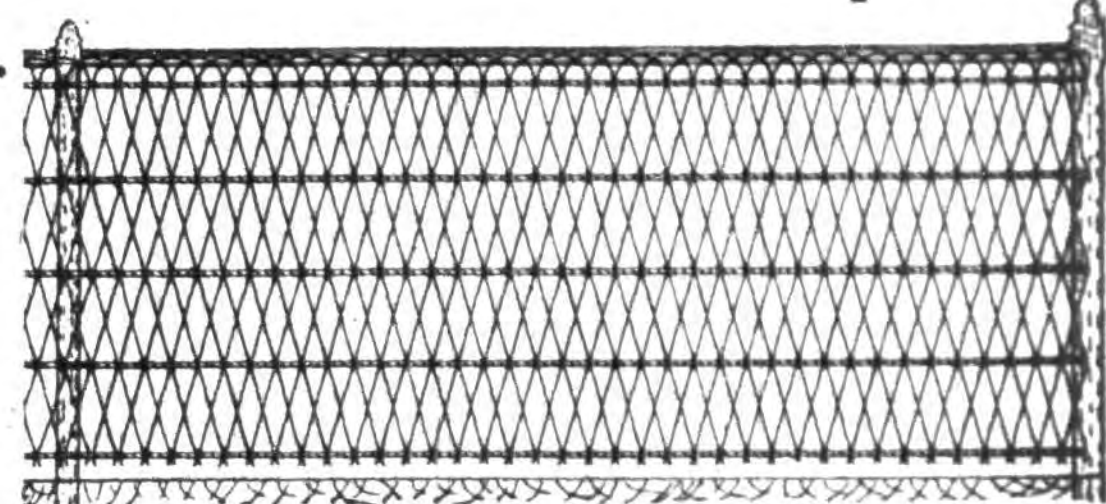
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